

The "NEW" Soviet Anti-Semitism

By Victor Riesel

HIDDEN SOMEWHERE in Canada under the alert protection of the Royal Mounted Police is the Soviet code clerk, Igor Sergeievitch Gouzenko, undoubtedly unaware that he not only broke the famous Soviet spy ring, but also casually tossed off the first hint of a globe-rattling story which was not to startle the world until seven years after he turned the Russian embassy secret police files over to the Canadian authorities.

Gouzenko, who arrived in Canada two years before he and his wife and little son, Andrei, hid in a neighbor's apartment while NKVD killers ransacked his home, told the Mounted Police sometime in the course of endless questioning that as early as 1943 he had come across internal Soviet directives ordering the exclusion of Jews from certain strategic positions and their diminution in other departments.

Exactly seven years later to the day, Rudolf Slansky, Dr. Vladimir Clementis and nine other prominent Czech Communists were in a "Peoples' Court" confessing in Soviet robot fashion to "high treason"

and "admitting" they were "Zionist, Trotskyite, Titoist enemies of Stalinism." One of the defendants, Gen. Karl Svab, formerly chief of Czechoslovakia's own version of the MVD, told the five-man court that he had "protected a Jewish bourgeois-national plot." Another defendant was one Otto Katz, himself one of the original couriers linking the Canadian spies with Americans and the Mexicans who still keep open the underground route to Prague and Moscow.

A few days later, after the secret police had forced the wives and children of the accused to write to the Peoples' judges demanding the death sentences for fathers and husbands, the prisoners were hanged in Prague's grim Pankrac prison.

The Soviet Union's first public anti-Semitic trial was over.

It was Russia's loudest pronouncement to the world that it now was ready to wipe out the 2,700,000 people of Jewish faith who had found themselves behind the Iron Curtain after the war. These were the hostages which had kept Jewish leaders across the world silently or-

ganizing underground railroads over which to save as many lives as possible. For without them the Jews would indeed be wiped from the earth; a mere 8,600,000 would be left, scattered in a hundred lands.

There was no weeping anywhere for Slansky and his comrades, who long ago repudiated Hebrew culture and all religion except the cult worship of Joseph Vissarovich Stalin. But then the Soviet propaganda agencies, a few days later, announced that they would soon try six Jewish doctors on charges of murdering two top Communist Party officials and plotting the death of Soviet military leaders. One of those accused, Dr. M. S. Vovsi, "admitted" he had "received instructions regarding the extermination of the leading cadres of the Soviet Union from the U. S. and the Joint Distribution Committee."

THAT was the open declaration of war by the Soviets on what is left of world Jewry. It was the announcement of Genocide, Inc. The attack on the Joint Distribution Committee meant that the Soviets were now as openly anti-Semitic as a Dachau gas oven, for the committee is the symbol of relief of Jewish suffering across the world.

This, then, was it.

Characteristically, but futilely, the young Jews of Israel declared war on the Soviets as they had on the British decades ago. The terror-

ist group of "Young Hebrews" swung into action.

This hitherto unknown "Young Hebrew" band plastered Tel Aviv with posters boasting they had bombed a Soviet bookshop in Jerusalem — and threatened to bomb and burn every shop selling Soviet books. Another book store displaying Soviet propaganda material was burned. Even the usually more temperate leaders of Israel's political parties demanded a Knesset (Congressional) debate on Russian anti-Jewish charges.

For there no longer was any hope that the Israelis' silence could save the 2,700,000 lives.

The Soviet government had made it plain. The fine was about to be collected on the greatest crime in the Kremlin's code — adherence to the West, friendship to America, aid to the Western democracies in the cold war, refusal of the Israelis to join in the Soviet's "peace" offensive which would give the Sovietized Chinese all of Northern Korea.

For every overt slander of the Jews, the Russian high command had a covert move which in effect told the Jewish leaders this was only the beginning. Early in the year, for example, powerful Russian transmitters began jamming British Hebrew-language broadcasts from London to Israel. This was Soviet nose-thumbing. For it served no other purpose than to drown out the BBC's half-hour daily Hebrew pro-

gram of news and comments. Few heard it in Israel. But the BBC had dared to discuss the Slansky trial. The Soviets wiped out the broadcasts as a warning that it would tolerate no interference in their anti-Jewish campaign.

THEN THE DRIVE made itself felt the world over. First the virtually unknown *Agitator's Notebook*, a Soviet Communist Party "official handbook for activists," redefined Zionism. To Stalin's agit-prop (agitation-propaganda chief), Zionism was now "a reactionary nationalist trend of the Jewish bourgeoisie" acting "as a faithful agency of American imperialism" and specializing in "carrying out espionage and subversive activities for the benefit of U. S. imperialists."

This went out to 45,000 selected party workers in the Moscow region.

The point to remember, as Soviet anti-Semitism grows more lethal in the land where the Jew is not even permitted to wander, is this section of the *Agitator's Notebook*:

"After the formation of the State of Israel in 1948, Zionists who seized power there were transforming the country into an American military base, as a stronghold of reaction in the Near East."

Then the handbook was boiled down to a world directive — and the blast against the Jews spewed forth from every Soviet Cominform section including the Communist

Party, USA. Ironically, the New York *Daily Worker* had two stories facing each other on Wednesday, January 11. One, championing the Soviet master spies recruited a decade ago, the Rosenbergs, charged that the U. S. authorities were attempting to force a "confession" out of those two, who are among the coldest, most methodical spies ever caught anywhere. Topping this story was a headline which had the word "confess" in quotes. Right opposite, on page three, was the headline telling of the arrest of the Jewish doctors in Moscow. They had confessed, shouted the headlines; but the Moscow confession was not in quotes.

THE STORY, written on orders from the "ninth floor" crowd (the Politburo), was the rawest bit of anti-Semitism in America since the German-American Bund ceased publishing its Yorkville edition of *Der Stürmer*. It is vital that part of this story be put on the record. The Communists everywhere are denying that it appeared:

On the bottom of column five, page three of the Wednesday, January 14, edition, the *Daily Worker* actually said:

"The Joint Distribution Committee was organized after World War I by a group of wealthy Jewish capitalists, including the Warburgs, Lehmans, Schiffs, Guggenheims and Baerwalds. Its direction, since its founding, was held in the hands of

this tightly knit group of Jewish members of the Wall Street finance-capitalist strata. As their financial arm purportedly established for charitable and human aims — 'Joint' was the companion organ of the American Jewish Committee.

"Among the directors of this committee are partners of the Kuhn-Loeb investment banking house; Jacob Blaustein, oil tycoon; Lewi-son and Strauss, mining magnates; Perlstein, of the Pabst Brewing fortune; and Ittleston, investment executive.

"Needless to say, both Joint and AJC (American Jewish Committee) have been handmaidens of the post-war policy of American imperialism, and major props throughout the world of the State Department's program of subversion, aggression and the organization of world war."

Not in all the years I covered the German-American Bund and professional anti-Semites have I heard more flagrant use of the Jewish capitalist theme invented by Joseph Goebbels.

IN Prague, a few days earlier, the official radio had attacked "the capitalist-owned Jewish newspapers printed in the capitalist countries." At the same time the Central Committee of the East German Communist Party launched a violent anti-Semitic attack against "agents of Zionism and capitalist Jewry." The Third-and-a-Half Reich was imitating its predecessor. The echo

of storm-troopers' boots resounded in the words of Soviet-controlled Eastern Germany.

Where had it all started?

With Lenin, of course. Back in 1903 when the little fellow teamed up with Joe Stalin to write something called "Against the Bund." Not the German Bund — the Socialist Bund of that time. And then in 1913, Stalin went anti-Semitic on his own and mocked the Jews in "Marxism and the National and Colonial Question."

And then again in the early thirties, the Communist cartoonists, wooing the Arabian world, caricatured Jews as gross humans. These were the models for Hitler's No. 1 anti-Semitic journalist, Julius Streicher — and provoked anti-Communist riots on New York's East Side.

But this was not yet the military anti-Semitism of today. That was kicked off by General Vassily I. Chuikov, now Commander in Chief of the Soviet troops in Germany.

Early in 1946, the Soviets began speeding the anti-Jewish weeding which Igor Gouzenko reported a year earlier to the Canadian police. The Soviet timetable was set for the Orient express. It may be oversimplification, but the schedule called for uniting the Oriental and Moslem world behind it. Then the Red parade through China, Korea, the underbelly lands; then the Near East, Africa, and finally hooking up with the Soviet base in Guate-

mala and a deal with Peron in Argentina.

At the same time the Russians needed a powerful German force at their back to hold off Western Germany and the victorious allies. In Germany there was only one hope for the Russian Communists — to hook onto the National Socialists, the Nazis, who originally dreamed of tying a mechanized German Reich to the vast agrarianism of Russia.

This meant the Russian Politburo would be wooing the mortal enemies of the remnants of world Jewry. To the pragmatists in the Kremlin, this, in turn, meant the Jews must be purged from all civilian, industrial, military and other strategic work. Thus would be wiped out any danger of any sentimental Jewish Stalinist turning on the regime. At the same time the Russians would be saying to the neo-Nazis and the Arab League, "See, we're your friends."

EARLY IN 1946 the purge began. Gen. Chuikov picked on the shabby appearance of Russian troops at an Army parade. Swiftly he blamed the Jews for the traditional sloppiness of the Russian soldier. His top officers were reproached for not removing all other Jewish officers.

"Jews are always a disruptive influence," he said. Purges, arrests and open persecution followed. Some were transferred to interior bases. Jewish servicemen, on demobiliza-

tion, were not permitted to return to their jobs as engineers, technicians and industrial executives. Thousands were arrested as vagrants as they searched for work and were shipped as "anti-social elements" to uranium pits and Arctic labor camps.

Since Communist Party members are entitled to special job privileges in the Soviet Union, the returning Jewish members were denounced even as far back as 1946 for "Zionist decadence manifested by seeking softer jobs." Expulsion and slave camps followed like allergies in ragweed country.

Anti-Semitism jargon became the vogue in the highest Politburo circles, as Jewish artists, writers, composers and others culturally accomplished were dropped out of the official Soviet Encyclopedia. The former Hungarian Minister, Nicolas Nyaradi, reports that, when he visited Moscow to settle some reparation problems for his government, not a single high Soviet official refrained from anti-Semitic remarks. The word "zhid," for example, is the equivalent of the horrible epithet "kike." All Soviet officials used it in referring to the Jews, Nyaradi reveals.

One day, Comrade Kaftanov, the Soviet Minister of Education, was about to introduce Nyaradi to Ilya Ehrenburg, Stalin Peace Prize winner, writer and exhibit No. 1 to prove that Jews are still tolerated. The Soviet Cabinet member said to the visiting Hungarian:

"You know, he is a *zhid*, but in spite of that he is a prominent Communist and a good Soviet patriot."

If the pathetic Ehrenburg is trusted, he is one of the few Jews still permitted any prestige, with the possible exception now of Lazar Kaganovich, a genius at heavy industry organization. The rest have been purged from all vital posts, including the powerful new Central Committee of the Communist Party, reorganized last October.

The Jews were dropped although the committee roster was jumped to 125 from the 71 members elected at the party convention in 1939. And this central committee is basically a military one.

THE POINT is that in the years between 1946 and the purge of the Moscow medics, the Jewish population and Jewish influence were heavily purged so that the job could be done in the satellites without danger of sabotage at home.

Some 400,000 Jews, including women and youngsters, were deported to Siberia from the western border as early as the summer of 1947.

There also were mass deportations of some 100,000 Jews from the biggest Hungarian cities — and the government confiscated their property for sale on the world markets to squeeze valuta (foreign exchange) out of the ghoulish operation.

As early as mid-1951 all Jews were purged from Czech government

posts. Many even then were charged with treason.

Jewish cooperatives were liquidated in Poland, where all Jews were ordered into heavy industry.

Romanian Jews were arrested and deported to the evil salt mines of Akna Slatine and a new concentration camp built especially for the anti-Semitic operation in Ruda-Banya.

Liquidation of all Jewish organizations and their press took place in Russia. Jewish newspapers and magazines disappeared. Jewish schools and welfare, fraternal and social organizations were shut down. Aside from three synagogues in Moscow, where the few foreign visitors could see them, Jewish places of worship were ripped down.

During 1949, virtually all Yiddish literary figures simply vanished — including Itzik Feffer, Peretz Markish, David Bergelson, L. Kvitko, S. Alkin and Nistor, well-known in world Jewish circles. Known and despised, that is. Even Jewish sports writers disappeared.

The Soviet press began the practice of following each Russian name of these figures by their original Jewish names in parenthesis.

A camp in which only nuns and Jewish women were imprisoned was built.

Refugee Jews were put behind barbed wire in a concentration camp in Karaganda. Jewish slave laborers were concentrated in Kazakstan and Aktibinsk.

THE American Jewish Committee, later to be attacked in the *Daily Worker* as an espionage organization, although it is made up of Americans of great standing in our nation, reported that:

"There are no Jewish communal life, schools, cultural organizations, periodicals, or Jewish institutions of any kind in the Soviet Union except for a few remaining synagogues . . . Rabbis are no longer seen at official Soviet functions, although it was a regular practice to invite representatives of all ethnic groups and to encourage the clergy, both Christian and Moslem, to attend in clerical garb. A new Committee for the Defense of Peace, formed in the summer of 1951, included representatives of the Orthodox, Armenian and Lutheran churches and of the Moslem religious community, but no representatives of the Jews.

"There were assaults on individual Jews even in Moscow and Odessa. Soviet officials were indifferent to Jewish complaints and took no effective steps to curb anti-Semitic incidents . . . There are virtually no Jews remaining in the higher echelons of party and state officialdom. Only in the Soviet Republics of Central Asia are there still Jews among the secretaries of regional and local party committees."

Instead of subduing the spreading violence and pogroms, the Soviet agit-prop chief ordered the publicizing of the Ukrainian leader, Bohden Chmielnicki, as "a great statesman

and military leader." Chmielnicki was the instigator of a series of bloody pogroms during which tens of thousands of Jews were slaughtered.

Thousands of Jews are being jailed, deported, or executed each week. And the charges cover every conceivable crime, according to special studies made recently. Treason, espionage, sabotage, embezzlement of national property, deliberate starving of the population, torture of co-prisoners in Nazi concentration camps, betrayal of comrades to the Gestapo, a series of vile murders, all were supposed to have been committed by Jews, and the Slansky combine. And directed from New York and Jerusalem, says the MVD.

Jewish defendants are forced to confess they were responsible for food rationing, lack of bread, failure of electric power, low wages, high prices, and for the failure of government plans — *all* plans!

WHY THIS meticulous and methodical anti-Semitism at this very moment? Why, when the cold, emotionless men of the Kremlin know it will lose them the last vestige of support of the popular front addicts across the world? Why this gamble on internationally publicized anti-Semitism?

It can only mean that the Russians are moving towards new military adventures in a new part of the world — perhaps the adventure which will start World War III.

Where is the next parallel to Korea?

The answer to some observers came in a Yiddish-language broadcast from Bucharest to Israel, Dec. 9, 1952. Note it well:

"It is known that the biggest military airfield being built by the U. S. behind its own frontiers is in the Natanyah region in Israel," the Soviet broadcaster rasped.

"Together with the Lydda airport, it is destined to become a base of aggression in the war being prepared by the U. S. ruling circles against the camp of socialism. Today, ruling circles in the U. S. have an especially great interest in Israel. Her soil and the Dead Sea region abound in oil and other resources. Her strategic position, close as she is to the frontiers of the Soviet Union, plays an important part in the aggressive plans of the Yankees.

"Indeed, although Israel is about 15,000 kilometers removed from the U. S., the U. S. ruling circles have stated that Israel is included in the American strategic defense zone. The Ben Gurion government has no other concern than to satisfy its Washington masters. It has converted the country into an American colony which is ruled by McDaniel [*sic*] along the lines laid down by Yankee business interests. Under the dictate of its masters, the Israeli government is adjusting the country's whole economy to war preparations."

Those who have observed Soviet

strategy closely know that the Kremlin first accuses its enemies of some policy, or adventure, or plot — and then does exactly what it charged its opponent would do.

REREADING that broadcast can bring only one conclusion — the Soviets intend to move in the Near East soon.

Any move against Israel can be coupled with the Soviets' wooing of Hitler's old forces in East Germany. This, too, has long been planned. For years now the U. S. has been accused of working with Nazi forces. For years now subtle undercover agents and men accused before Congress of being Soviet operatives have pushed a propaganda campaign to prove that we plan to rebuild a Nazi Reich. But, as far back as 1948, the Soviet technique of accuse and move was working in this sector.

In May 1948, the Soviet military administration in Germany ordered the creation of the National Democratic Party. In October 1948, so it could win new members, the party was permitted to introduce a law, adopted by the Sovietized German government, ending de-Nazification and readmitting Nazis to public life. Big Russian money was dumped into the party, which makes no subtlety of its appeal to Hitler's old storm troops. It is now loaded with the old National Socialist leaders. Deputy Party Chairman is former Wehrmacht Lt. General Vincenz Mueller. Political director is Hein-

rich Homann, who has a long SS record. C. A. Brauns, former Nazi Party member, is the party's treasurer. Former Hitler Youth Leader Max Schneider is NDP chairman in Berlin. The list rolls on. Adolph would have been proud of his boys.

Furthermore, three divisions of a new East German Army, a Communazi Army, now are fully equipped with artillery and tanks. Its men would never have taken orders from a government whose propaganda chief, for example, was Gerhart Eisler. So he has been purged.

And apparently he is only part of the final round-up.

Those old inner-party directives Igor Gouzenko talked of, but never for a moment thought were as explosive as the secrets of the weapon which the Canadian spy ring stole, may yet lead to a greater upheaval than that of the spy ring he exposed — and the many rings he knew existed but which were kept secret from him.

Soviet anti-Semitism may be the signal for the "final conflict" the Reds sing about so much.

» Things cannot always go your way. Learn to accept in silence the minor aggravations, cultivate the gift of taciturnity and consume your own smoke with an extra draught of hard work, so that those about you may not be annoyed with the dust and soot of your complaints. — *Sir William Osler*

» No government is respectable which is not just. Without unspotted purity of public faith, without sacred public principle, fidelity, and honor, no mere forms of government, no machinery of laws, can give dignity to political society. — *Daniel Webster*

» What gunpowder did for the war, the printing-press has done for the mind; the statesman is no longer clad in the steel of special education, but every reading man is his judge. — *Wendell Phillips*

» As I would not be a slave, so I would not be a master. This expresses my idea of democracy. Whatever differs from this, to the extent of the difference, is no democracy. — *Abraham Lincoln*